Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO Filing Date INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known Application Number Te Be Assigned 10/596119 5/31/2006 First Named Inventor Giovanni Beretta 3673 Art Unit Unknown-Unknown **Examiner Name KELLEHER**

Attorney Docket Number 1029,1036 Sheet

				U. S. PATENT D		
Examiner Inilials*	Cile No.1		Document Number lumber-Kind Code ^{2 (II known)}	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevan Figures Appear
/WK/	1	US-	5 142 717	09-01-1992	EVERARD	
/WK/	2	US-	2003/221261	12-04-2003	TORBET	
/WK/		US-	5 596 781	01-28-1997	GRAEBE	
/WK/	4	US-	6 154 907	12-05-2000	CINQUIN.	
/WK/	5	US-	6 108 843	08-29-2000	SUZUKI	
		US-				
		US-				
		US-				
		US-				
		US-				
		US-				•
		US-				
		US-				
		US-				
		US-				
		US-				
		US-	•			
		US-				
		US-				

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS										
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear					
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (If known)				Ţ₿				
/WK/	1	EP 0 663 169	07-19-1995	Span America Medical						
INNIZI	2	JP 2001276148	09-10-2001	Rabo						
'/W/X/	3	JP 10 277100	10-20-1998	Yamagishi						
				*						
						1				

Examiner Signature	/William Kelleher/	Date Considered	08/16/2007
-----------------------	--------------------	--------------------	------------

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation in not in conformance and not considered, include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). For Japanese patent documents, the Indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.18 if possible. Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.